

COUNTRY	East Germany	25X1	REPORT NO.		25X1
TOPIC	Military Information from the Bittkau Area				
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED		25X1	
DATE OF CONTENT	11 May to 9 June 1953				
DATE OBTAINED		25X1	DATE PREPARED	1 July 1953	
REFERENCES					
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)			
REMARKS					

25X1

1. Between 11 and 14 May 1953, motorized units wearing red-bordered black epaulets held an exercise in the wooded area between Tangerhuetten, Weisse Warte, Grieben, Bittkau and Cobbel. The roads crossing the area were blocked during the exercise. Individual trucks with covered numbers, occupied by troops and camouflaged with branches, were repeatedly observed. At 5 p.m. on 14 May, five sedans occupied by field grade officers and two trucks, one occupied by junior officers and the other carrying garden furniture, passed through Cobbel, coming from Polte and proceeding to Mahlwinkel. The troops involved in the exercise left the area by rail. At 7 p.m. on 14 May, trucks, troops and several field kitchens were entrained at the Mahlwinkel railroad station. At 9 a.m. on 16 May, at least 30 trucks occupied by troops and a field kitchen were entrained in Tangerhuetten.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

This entraining involved the last troops participating in the exercise.¹ Between 30 May and 3 June, individual soldiers were continually going to, and coming from, the directions of Magdeburg and Stendal. A total of 100 troops went in each direction. At about 8 p.m. on 31 May, a heavy detonation was heard in Polte from the direction of the training area. At about 3 p.m. on 1 and 2 June, several light detonations at short intervals were heard from the direction of the training camp. At 8 p.m. on 5 June, bus [redacted] occupied by about 25 officers passed through Cobbel, coming from Polte and proceeding to Mahlwinkel and, at 3:45 a.m. on 9 June, 2 trucks carrying pontoons passed through Cobbel, proceeding toward Ringfurth.²

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Comment. The information indicates that an exercise was held in the area mentioned prior to 14 May. The exercise may have started before 11 May, as, among others, a shipment went from Wismar to Tangerhuetten [redacted] and another shipment carrying a small detail from Hagenow to Tangerhuetten [redacted] on 4 May. It is not impossible that these shipments were in connection with the exercise which, then, may have begun as early as 6 May and presumably involved units of the Third Shock Army. There is a possibility that an exercise of units of the IV Arty Corps and the Third Shock Army held in the northern part of Letzling Heath was in connection with the exercise mentioned in this report. The train [redacted] from Tangerhuetten, allegedly to Luebars, [redacted]

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

235

SECRET,

25X1

- 2 -

probably carried troops which had participated in the exercise and returned to their post. Therefore, it is fairly definitely believed that Luebars was confused with Wismar.

25X1 Comment. According to this report, the Bittkau troop training grounds were apparently occupied in early June; however, the information fails to give indications for the identification of the troops stationed there. The bus belongs to the Hq Third Shock Army. The individual soldiers seen en route toward Stendal and Magdeburg may have been arriving recruits and departing soldiers on leave.

SECRET